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September 5, 2001

Ms. Janice Pearson
U.S. EPA
Region VIII
Office of Enforcement, Compliance
and Environmental Justice
999 18th Street, Suite 500, 8ENF-T
Denver, Colorado 80202-2466

RE: Soil sampling and analysis contractors; Apex Site

Dear Ms. Pearson:

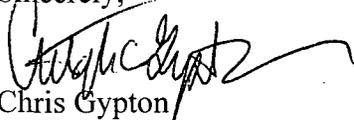
For your records, Hecla Mining Company has retained the following firms to assist us in the implementation of the workplan:

1. RC Exploration Drilling, Inc., Ft Duchesne, Utah – geotechnical drilling
2. Strata, Inc., Spokane, Washington – geotechnical testing
3. Doug Gibbs, P.E., Ft Collins, Colorado – site technical representative

Per our earlier discussions, our schedule has the drilling contractor on site by early afternoon, October 1st, with the first bore hole to be started on October 2nd. Barring inclement weather, the sampling program should be complete by the end of Wednesday, October 3rd.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call me at (208) 769-4135 or e-mail at cgypton@hecla-mining.com

Sincerely,


Chris Gypton
Senior Project Engineer

Cc: John Galbavy, Esq. (HMC)
John Jacus, Esq. (DG&S)

